

Amendments to the Specification

Please replace the paragraph that begin on page 11, line 12, and continues over to page 12, with the following:

Referring again to FIG. 3, assets representing content and/or services generated by content/service providers **135** are transmitted via a distribution network **140** to a headend **145**. The headend **145**, in turn, receives the assets, parses the assets and forwards the appropriate content and/or services to select set-top boxes **155** via an HFC Network **150**. The assets are transmitted from the content/service providers **135** to the headend **145** via any well-known form of high-bandwidth digital data transmission, such as via MPEG-2 or MPEG-4 transport, as are well known in the art. Upon receiving assets from one or more content/service providers **135**, the headend **145** stores the asset in the staging server **160**. The staging server **160** of the present invention comprises one or more databases (or memory elements) for storing each asset received from the content/service providers **135**. Preferably, the staging server **160** includes a file system directory component that allows access to one or more files stored within the staging server **160**. This storage effects the non-real time distribution of assets from the content/service provider **135** to set-top boxes **155**. However, it will also be appreciated that where real-time or near real-time forwarding of content from the high speed distribution network to a subscriber set-top box is performed, the storage of assets may be transitory or exist for a very short duration. Once the staging server **160** at the headend **145** receives a new asset from a content/service provider **135**, the staging server instructs the Asset Management System (AMS) **165** to create a new package object. The AMS **145 165** generally includes a processor, operating system, executable code and interfaces through which the AMS **145 165** can communicate with other elements within the headend **145** and perform the functions described in detail herein.